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Selected Speeches and News Releases

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U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Information

CCC LOAN INTEREST RATE FOR SEPTEMBER 8 PERCENT

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1—Commodity loans disbursed in September by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation will carry a 8 percent interest rate, according to Vern Neppl, acting CCC executive vice president.

The new rate, up from August's 7-5/8 percent, reflects the interest rate charged CCC by the U.S. Treasury in September.

Robert Feist (202) 447-6789

#

USDA FUNDS PLANT SCIENCE CENTER AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1—The U. S. Department of Agriculture today announced a \$1.3 million, five-year grant to Michigan State University in East Lansing to establish a Plant Science Center to research genetic manipulation of some crops to produce new compounds for non-food use.

The award is part of a Plant Science Centers Program established by USDA, the Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation to fund three centers to encourage top level basic research and training in plant science. The program is based on the need to improve the quality of food and fiber, to increase the efficiency of their production, and to develop and use new products to insure the future competitive position of U.S. agricultural and production of renewable resources.

The three agencies jointly reviewed and selected the centers from among 56 proposals submitted in response to a March 1988 solicitation. Although each agency will independently fund a center, each center will carry the designation "a unit of the USDA-DOE-NSF Plant Science Center Program."

Scientists at Michigan State's Center for Genetics and Biochemical Alteration of Plant Lipids and Starch, headed by Dr. John B. Ohlrogge, associate professor of botany and plant pathology, will conduct basic research into lipid and starch metabolism with the goal of genetically

manipulating certain crops to produce compounds useful for non food purposes.

The rationale for the research is that there are a large number of high value compounds with potential use for industrial non food purposes, which are derived from plant lipids and starch, said Ohlrogge.

For example, no field crops grown in North America produce shortchained fatty acids used in detergents, said Ohlrogge. "This research could allow us to transfer genes from species of wild plants to crop plants such as sunflowers or rapeseeds thus producing more fatty acids for industrial use.

But, according to Ohlrogge such potential will not be realized without basic understanding of the biochemistry of lipid and starch metabolism.

The new center also will train young scientists in basic plant biochemistry, and allow them to broaden their knowledge in the application of bio-chemistry and molecular biology relating to agricultural problems.

Three others will assist Dr. Ohlrogge in the research: Dr. Chris R. Somerville at Michigan State University in the DOE Plant Research Laboratory, and Drs. Jack Preiss and Edward N. Tolbert with MSU's biochemistry department.

USDA's Northern Regional Research Center in Peoria is listed as a collaborating institution on the grant.

Simultaneous with the USDA announcement, DOE announced the award of \$2.5 million to Arizona State University for a Center for the Study of Early Events in Photosynthesis, and the NSF announced the award of \$5.7 million to Cornell University for a Center for the Experimental Analysis and Transfer of Plant Genes.

Machi Dilworth (202) 475-5042

#

USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE FOR UPLAND COTTON

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard W. Goldberg today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-4.9) upland cotton (base quality) and the coarse count adjustment in effect from 12:01 a.m.

Friday, Sept. 2, through 12:00 midnight Thursday, Sept. 8.

Since the AWP is less than the 1987-crop and 1988-crop base quality loan rates of 52.25 and 51.80 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rate for 1987-crop and 1988-crop upland cotton during this period is equal to the AWP adjusted for the specific quality and location.

Since the AWP is less than the 1986-crop base quality loan repayment rate of 44 cents per pound, first handler certificates will be issued to eligible first handlers with respect to 1986-crop upland cotton pledged as loan collateral that is redeemed with cash during this period.

The first handler payment rate will equal the difference between the loan repayment rate (80 percent of the 1986-crop loan rate for the specific quality and location) and the AWP (adjusted to the specific quality and location and, if applicable, the coarse count adjustment) in effect during this period. Payment will be made in the form of a commodity certificate that may be exchanged for upland cotton or extra long staple cotton.

Because the loan repayment rate for 1988-crop upland cotton in effect during this period is less than the established loan rate, loan deficiency payments will be paid to eligible producers who agree to forgo loan eligibility on their 1988-crop upland cotton. The payment rate for cotton sold during this period will equal the difference between the loan rate and the loan repayment rate.

The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates.

Based on data for the week ending Sept. 1, the AWP for upland cotton and the coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price

Northern Europe Price 55.86

Adjustments:

Average U.S. spot market location 11.64

SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton 2.00

Average U.S. location 0.42

Sum of Adjustments -14.06

ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE 41.80 cents/lb.

Coarse Count Adjustment

Northern Europe Price 55.86

Northern Europe Coarse Count Price -50.73

5.13

Adjustment to SLM 1-inch cotton -4.15

-0.98

COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT 0 cents/lb.

The next AWP and coarse count adjustment announcement will be made Sept. 8.

Charles Cunningham (202) 447-7954

#

**USDA EXTENDS BASIC GYPSY MOTH QUARANTINED AREA;
REDUCES OUTLYING QUARANTINES**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 2—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today extended highand low-risk gypsy moth quarantine areas to include additional portions of northeastern and mid-Atlantic states and removed the quarantine from most other places.

The action directly affects people who move from newly quarantined high-risk areas and take along articles stored outdoors; household moving companies; and, businesses who move nursery stock, logs and other forestry products out of quarantined areas, according to James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Gypsy moths are a destructive pest of forest, shade and ornamental trees accidentally introduced into the United States in 1869.

Newly designated high-risk areas include parts of Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. The overall high-risk region now stretches generally west from Maine to western Pennsylvania and south to eastern West Virginia and Virginia. Along the Atlantic Seaboard, it reaches the Virginia-North Carolina border.

Glosser said the high-risk designation is being removed from Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Washington and Wisconsin, where isolated pockets of infestation have been eradicated, and from Oregon. A single low-risk area remains in Oregon.

Newly designated low-risk areas—where infestations are less than 50 egg masses per acre—are in Maine, Maryland, Michigan and Ohio. The low-risk designation normally doesn't restrict the movement of household goods.

People moving from a high-risk area must inspect their outdoor articles and remove gypsy moth life stages—particularly egg masses—or hire a certified pest control operator to do the job. The person doing the inspection must sign a certificate stating that all outdoor goods have been found free of gypsy moths. Outdoor goods include such items as dog houses, toys, swing sets, lawn furniture and recreational vehicles that accompany household moves.

USDA and state officials inspect moving trucks during transit or upon arrival. If they find gypsy moth life stages in uncertified shipments, the owner may be fined up to \$1,000. Moving companies also are subject to a fine for hauling uncertified, infested household shipments.

"In most cases, moving companies have cooperated with gypsy moth quarantines," Glosser said. "They also have distributed many thousands of copies of our brochure to customers moving out of high-risk areas."

The brochure, "Don't Move Gypsy Moth," is available directly from APHIS. For copies, write: "Don't Move Gypsy Moth," G-110 Federal Building, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

The new designations are published in today's Federal Register and are effective immediately. Comments can be sent to USDA, APHIS, Room 1143-S, P.O. Box 96464, Washington, D.C. 20090-6464.

Correspondence (an original with three copies) should refer to Docket No. 88-094 and should be submitted by Nov. 1.

Max Heppner (301) 436-7799

#

USDA ADDS PCFIA TEST TO LIST OF OFFICIAL BRUCELLOSIS TESTS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 2—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has approved the particle concentration fluorescence immunoassay (PCFIA) test as an official test for brucellosis in cattle and bison.

"This new test is faster, more sensitive and more specific than many of the official laboratory tests now used for brucellosis," said James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

A negative reaction to an official brucellosis test is a condition for certain interstate movements of cattle and bison. Official tests are also used to determine eligibility for indemnity payments for animals destroyed because of brucellosis.

PCFIA is an automated test procedure that can process nearly 1,000 samples in less than two hours. Serum samples are placed in wells on a testing plate and run through an instrument that adds reagents and performs other procedures automatically. The test uses fluorescence to "read" the samples, and records and tabulates the resulting data.

In testing for brucellosis, both "presumptive" and "diagnostic" tests are used, according to Glosser. Presumptive tests are preliminary, highly sensitive tests that identify animals infected with brucellosis or which are positive for other reasons. Animals that react positively to presumptive tests are then tested with a diagnostic test, which further distinguishes infected from noninfected animals.

"PCFIA has been evaluated by extensive field tests in seven states," said Glosser. "It also was performed on nearly 700 animals known to be either brucellosis-infected or negative animals. Besides being a sensitive, highly specific test, we found PCFIA to be highly reproducible, meaning that test results from the same serum sample are consistent from one laboratory to the next. Based on these findings, we believe the PCFIA will not have to be supplemented by other presumptive or diagnostic tests."

Brucellosis, also called Bang's disease, is an infectious bacterial disease that causes abortion, reduces fertility and lowers milk yields in cattle. Since 1951, USDA has taken the lead in a cooperative federal-state program to eradicate brucellosis from the United States.

Notice of this action is effective upon publication in the Sept. 2 Federal Register.

Pat Rogers (301) 436-7776

#

USDA AUTHORIZES FIELD TESTING OF GENETICALLY ALTERED SWINE VACCINE

WASHINGTON, Sept. 2—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has authorized Fermenta Animal Health Company of Kansas City, Mo., to field test a genetically altered vaccine designed to protect swine against pseudorabies. The field trials will begin after Oct. 1 in swine on farms in Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Minnesota and Nebraska.

James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, said the agency had conducted a thorough investigation of the preliminary data and proposed field test procedures. "We have compiled this information in an environmental assessment," said Glosser, "and have concluded the tests will pose no significant risk to the environment."

Glosser said the vaccine is expected to immunize swine against pseudorabies without causing disease signs. "We do not expect the altered virus to spread beyond the vaccinated animals, and it is unlikely to take on the ability to do so in the future," he said.

Pseudorabies is a contagious viral disease of swine and other livestock that causes respiratory illness and encephalitis. Swine are the primary hosts of the disease, and fatality rates often reach 100 percent in newborn pigs. Pseudorabies has increased tenfold in swine in the past decade. The National Pork Producers Council estimates 1987 losses at \$36 million. Pseudorabies poses no health risk to humans.

The Fermenta scientists deleted two genes from the pseudorabies virus. One deletion makes the virus incapable of replicating and therefore of causing illness in swine; the animal gains immunity without becoming sick. The second deletion removes a protein from the virus, which allows tests to differentiate between infected animals and vaccinated ones. Infected animals carry the entire virus, while vaccinated animals test negative for the deleted protein. This differentiation could be important in large-scale plans to eliminate the disease nationally, according to Glosser.

This is the fourth genetically engineered pseudorabies vaccine APHIS has approved for testing; licenses have been issued for three. After field testing, APHIS will review the data to ensure that the vaccine is safe, pure, potent and effective before deciding to issue a license to market the vaccine.

Notice of the availability of the environmental assessment is in the Sept. 2 Federal Register. Copies can be obtained from the USDA-APHIS

Veterinary Biologics Staff, Room 838 Federal Bldg., 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

Anita Brown (301) 436-7799

#

USDA RELEASES COST OF FOOD AT HOME FOR JULY

WASHINGTON, Sept. 2—Here is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's monthly update of the weekly cost of food at home for July 1988.

Cost of food at home for a week in July 1988

	Food plans (In Dollars)		
	Thrifty	Low-cost	Moderate cost
Families:			
Family of 2 (20-50 years)	41.80	52.80	65.40
Family of 2 (51 years and over)	39.60	50.80	62.80
Family of 4 with preschool children	60.70	75.90	93.10
Family of 4 with elemen- tary schoolchildren	69.70	89.20	112.00
			135.30
Individuals in four-person families:			
Children:			
1-2 years	10.90	13.30	15.50
3-5 years	11.80	14.60	18.10
6-8 years	14.50	19.30	24.20
9-11 years	17.20	21.90	28.30
			32.90

Females:

12-19 years	17.90	21.50	26.20	31.70
20-50 years	18.00	22.50	27.40	35.20
51 and over	17.80	21.90	27.10	32.50

Males:

12-14 years	18.00	24.90	31.20	36.60
15-19 years	18.60	25.70	32.00	37.20
20-50 years	20.00	25.50	32.10	38.90
51 and over	18.20	24.30	30.00	36.10

USDA's Human Nutrition Information Service computes the cost of food at home for four food plans—thrifty, low-cost, moderate-cost, and liberal.

Suzanne S. Harris, Ph.D., deputy assistant secretary for food and consumer services, said the plans consist of foods that provide well-balanced meals and snacks for a week.

In computing the costs, USDA assumes all food is bought at the store and prepared at home. Costs do not include alcoholic beverages, pet food, soap, cigarettes, paper goods, and other nonfood items bought at the store.

“USDA costs are only guides to spending,” Harris said. “Families may spend more or less, depending on such factors as where they buy their food, how carefully they plan and buy, whether some food is produced at home, what foods the family likes, and how much food is prepared at home.

“Most families will find the moderate-cost or low-cost plan suitable,” she said. “The thrifty plan, which USDA uses to set the coupon allotment in the food stamp program, is for families who have tighter budgets. Families with greater resources might use the liberal plan.”

To use the chart to estimate your family's food costs:

—For members eating all meals at home—or carried from home—use the amounts shown in the chart.

—For members eating some meals out, deduct 5 percent from the amount shown for each meal not eaten at home. Thus, for a person eating lunch out 5 days a week, subtract 25 percent, or one-fourth the cost shown.

—For guests, add 5 percent of the amount shown for the proper age group for each meal.

Costs in the second part of the chart are for individuals in four-person families. If your family has more or less than four, total the "individual" figures and make these adjustments, because larger families tend to buy and use food more economically than smaller ones:

- For a one-person family, add 20 percent.
- For a two-person family, add 10 percent.
- For a three-person family, add 5 percent.
- For a five or six-person family, subtract 5 percent.
- For a family of seven or more, subtract 10 percent.

Details of the four family food plans are available from the Nutrition Education Division, Human Nutrition Information Service, USDA, Federal Building, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

Johna Pierce (301) 436-8617

#

USDA ANNOUNCES MAXIMUM ACCEPTABLE RENTAL RATES FOR 7TH CRP SIGNUP

WASHINGTON, Sept. 2—Secretary of Agriculture Richard E. Lyng today announced maximum acceptable rental rates by pool that are applicable to the seventh signup under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) which ended Aug. 31. States were authorized to establish CRP pools in areas where erosion, crop production and other agricultural criteria were similar.

If the per acre rental rate bids submitted for individual farms exceeds the prevailing local rate for an acre of comparable land, the bid will not be accepted.

Lyng said that while the U.S. Department of Agriculture will not be ready to report complete data on the seventh signup until about mid-September, he is announcing the maximum acceptable rental rates now to assist producers in making their planting decisions.

Under CRP, participants sign contracts agreeing to keep their land out of production and in a conserving use for 10 years. Annual rental payments compensate farmers for retiring highly erodible land from crop production for that period. Participants also receive cost-share payments

of up to 50 percent of the cost of establishing trees or grass on the acreage placed in the program.

More than 25.5 million acres have been enrolled in CRP under contracts entered into during the first six signups. The goal is to bring 40-45 million acres into the program by the end of 1990.

The following table shows the maximum acceptable annual acreage rental rate by state and pool number.

STATE	POOL NUMBER	MAXIMUM RATE ACCEPTA- BLE		STATE	POOL NUMBER	MAXIMUM RATE ACCEPTA- BLE	
		(Dollars/Acre)	(Dollars/Acre)			(Dollars/Acre)	(Dollars/Acre)
Alabama	1	45.00		Kentucky	1	60.00	
					2	70.00	
Alaska	1&2	37.00			3	50.00	
Arizona	1	40.00		Louisiana	1	45.00	
Arkansas	1	50.00		Maine	1&2	50.00	
California	1	50.00		Maryland	1	70.00	
					2	85.00	
Colorado	1	50.00		Massachusetts	1	50.00	
	2	45.00					
	3	40.00		Michigan	1	40.00	
Connecticut	1	50.00			2	60.00	
					3	85.00	
Delaware	1	80.00		Minnesota	1	44.00	
					2	30.00	
Florida	1	45.00			3	55.00	
	2	40.00			4	45.00	
Georgia	1	45.00			5	50.00	
					6&7	70.00	
Hawaii	1,2,3,4	80.00			8	85.00	
					9	80.00	
Idaho	1&2	50.00		Mississippi	1	45.00	
	3	45.00					
	4	60.00					

Illinois	1	105.00	Missouri	1	65.00
	2	115.00		2	50.00
	3	85.00			
	4	70.00	Montana	1	35.00
				2	40.00
Indiana	1	85.00		3	45.00
	2	75.00	Nebraska	1	45.00
Iowa	1	80.00		2	52.00
	2	110.00		3	60.00
	3	90.00		4	70.00
	4	105.00			
	5	70.00	Nevada	1	40.00
Kansas	1	50.00	New Hampshire	1	50.00
	2	55.00			
	3	65.00	New Jersey	1	70.00
	4	60.00		2&3	60.00
New Mexico	1	40.00	Tennessee	1	60.00
				2	55.00
New York	1	60.00		3,4,5	50.00
	2	70.00	Texas	1&2	40.00
N. Carolina	1&2	45.00		3	35.00
	3	50.00		4,5,6	40.00
				7	55.00
N. Dakota	1	35.00			
	2,3,4	40.00	Utah	1	45.00
	5	47.00		2	40.00
Ohio	1	85.00			
	2	65.00	Vermont	1	50.00
Oklahoma	1	40.00	Virginia	1	70.00
	2	50.00		2	60.00
	3&4	45.00		3	55.00
Oregon	1	65.00			
	2&3	50.00	Virgin Island	1	60.00
Pennsylvania	1	75.00	Washington	1	50.00
	2	65.00		2&3	60.00
	3	85.00	West Virginia	1	60.00

Puerto Rico	1	60.00	Wisconsin	1	30.00
Rhode Island	1	50.00		2	38.00
	3		50.00		
S. Carolina	1,2,3	45.00		4	60.00
				5	65.00
S. Dakota	1	35.00		6	85.00
	2	40.00		7	80.00
	3&4	45.00		8	90.00
	5	50.00			
	6	60.00	Wyoming	1	40.00

Robert Feist (202) 447-6789

#

U.S. FOOD EXPORTERS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN SHOW FOR FOREIGN FOOD BUYERS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 6—U.S. food exporters will have an opportunity to exhibit their products to buyers from more than 50 countries at the National Food and Agriculture Exposition at the Hynes Convention Center, Boston, Mass., May 15-17, 1989.

The exposition is sponsored by the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service.

Nearly 85 percent of the exhibit space is already booked. Firms wishing to exhibit should contact Kevin Smith, NASDA '89 Coordinator, High Value Products Division, FAS/USDA, Room 4951-S, Washington, D.C. 20250; telephone (202) 475-3418. Exhibitors who sign up early will have first choice of space selection and receive a discount in the space costs.

Show management expects U.S. exhibitors to offer foreign buyers a complete line of U.S. food items including fresh, frozen, canned, dehydrated fruits and vegetables, grain products, rice, meal products, seafood, beverages and snack foods.

Donald Washington (202) 447-3448

#

USDA'S BIOTECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS RESEARCH GUIDELINES

WASHINGTON, Sept. 6—The first U.S. Department of Agriculture guidelines for biotechnology research, along with a field handbook, will be the main topics at the next meeting of the Agricultural Biotechnology Research Advisory Committee (ABRAC) Sept. 22-23 at USDA.

“The agricultural biotechnology research guidelines and the handbook, now in the draft stage, are intended for USDA-funded research experiments,” said Dr. Alvin Young, director of USDA’s Office of Agricultural Biotechnology and ABRAC’s executive secretary. “They will address many of the critical issues now faced by institutions that are preparing to move their experiments from the laboratory to outdoor field trials.”

Three ABRAC working groups—on definitions, confinement, and guidelines—have been analyzing these issues and will report their findings at the meeting. Among the topics to be discussed are categories of biological confinement, USDA review procedures for an environmental release, the role of institutional biosafety committees, and National Environmental Policy Act requirements.

While the guidelines contain the major policy items, the field handbook for researchers focuses on the “how-to’s”, such as instructions to the principal investigator on what projects need approval and how to get them approved.

A final draft of both will be published in the Federal Register.

The meeting will take place in USDA’s Administration Building, Room 104-A, The Mall, Washington, D.C., from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 22, and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, Sept. 23. The meeting is open to the public, and individuals may participate as time and space permit.

For more information, or to file written comments before or after the meeting, contact Dr. Alvin Young, Executive Secretary, ABRAC, Office of Agricultural Biotechnology, Room 321-A, USDA, Washington, D.C., 20250; telephone (202) 447-9165.

Marti Asner (202) 447-9165

#

USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES

WASHINGTON, Sept. 6—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard W. Goldberg today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

- long grain whole kernels, 10.68 cents per pound;
- medium grain whole kernels, 9.82 cents per pound;
- short grain whole kernels, 9.74 cents per pound;
- broken kernels, 5.34 cents per pound.

Minimum loan repayment rates for 1987-crop loans are the higher of the world price or 50 percent of the loan rate. For 1988-crop rice, the minimum repayment rates are the higher of the world price or 60 percent of the loan rate.

Based upon these prevailing world market prices for milled rice, rough rice world prices are estimated to be:

- long grain, \$6.42 per hundredweight;
- medium grain, \$6.11 per hundredweight;
- short grain, \$5.93 per hundredweight.

The prices announced are effective today at 3:00 P.M. EDT. The next scheduled price announcement will be made Sept. 13, 1988 at 3:00 P.M. EDT, although prices may be announced sooner if warranted.

Gene Rosera (202) 447-5954

#

USDA GRANTS TO AID MINORITY STUDENTS IN AGRICULTURE

WASHINGTON, Sept. 6—The U.S. Department of Agriculture will begin awarding \$2 million in grants this month to 18 predominantly black land-grant colleges and universities, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Peter C. Myers announced today.

The grants will help the institutions improve instructional programs in agriculture, strengthen faculty, and recruit and retain minority students in agricultural and food-sciences fields.

Myers said the grants illustrate USDA's continued commitment to improving the capabilities of the nation's colleges of agriculture and to encourage education and expertise in associated academic disciplines.

Samuel J. Cornelius, director of USDA's Office of Advocacy and Enterprise (OAE), said the awards are part of a comprehensive long-term plan to increase the involvement of historically black schools in USDA programs.

The grants will be administered by OAE's Office of Minority Research and Teaching Programs, which primarily services the interests of colleges and universities authorized under the Second Morrill Act of 1890.

The \$2 million in grants, minus administrative costs, provides each institution a total of \$102,496.

Recipients are: Alabama A&M University, Huntsville; Alcorn State University, Lorman, Miss.; University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff; Delaware State College, Dover; Florida A&M University, Tallahassee; Fort Valley State College, Fort Valley, Ga.; Kentucky State University, Frankfort; Southern University, Baton Rouge, La.; the University of Maryland-Eastern Shore, Princess Anne; Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Mo.; North Carolina A&T State University, Greensboro; Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, Ala.; Langston University, Langston, Okla.; South Carolina State College, Orangeburg; Tennessee State University, Nashville; Prairie View A&M University, Texas; University of the District of Columbia,* Washington, D.C.; and Virginia State University, Petersburg.

* The University of the District of Columbia was chartered under the original land grant measure of 1862, and is the nation's only urban land grant university.

Samuel Cornelius (202) 447-5212

#

NO CHANGE IN THIS WEEK'S HONEY-LOAN REPAYMENT LEVELS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 8—Producers may repay their 1987 and 1988 honey price-support loans at the following levels, according to Milton J. Hertz, executive vice president of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation:

Weekly Honey-loan repayment Levels, cents per pound, 1987 and 1988 crops

White	40.0
Extra-light amber	37.0
Light amber	36.0
Amber	34.0

The 1987-crop levels are unchanged from those announced Oct. 8; the 1988-crop levels are unchanged from those announced April 7.

Producers who redeem their honey pledged as loan collateral by repaying their 1987 and 1988 honey price-support loans at these levels may not repledge the same honey as collateral for another loan.

Jane K. Phillips (202) 447-7602 7:30 am-4:00 pm EST

John C. Ryan (202) 447-8207 4:00 pm-5:30 pm EST

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